

The Planning Process

THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE ROLE

The National Park Service was established to achieve a particular part of the “common good.” The primary definition of the Park Service mission is provided in the Organic Act of 1916 which established it as an agency:

“...to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wild life therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations.”

The National Park Service is charged with the preservation and restoration of nature while helping people experience and understand the landscape and histories with which we are inextricably linked. Any planning and implementation effort must comply fully with this mission. Final decisions on park plans will be made by the National Park Service in light of its responsibilities

THE PUBLIC’S ROLE

National parks were set aside for the preservation and enjoyment of special places like Yosemite for future generations. The public has a duty to fulfill its role in park planning and speak out on behalf of the park’s future.

Each planning process provides at least two opportunities for the public to become involved. First, public scoping takes place at the beginning of the process when the planning effort is announced. At that time, the public is asked to raise questions and concerns to help park planners identify the issues to be addressed in the plan. The second opportunity to get involved comes once the draft plan is released. The public is provided the opportunity to scrutinize the proposals (known as “alternatives”) and present comments. The comments are then analyzed and may be used to revise portions of the final plan.



Photo by Kodak/Chamberlin



Photo by James Schull



Photo by Mike Floyd

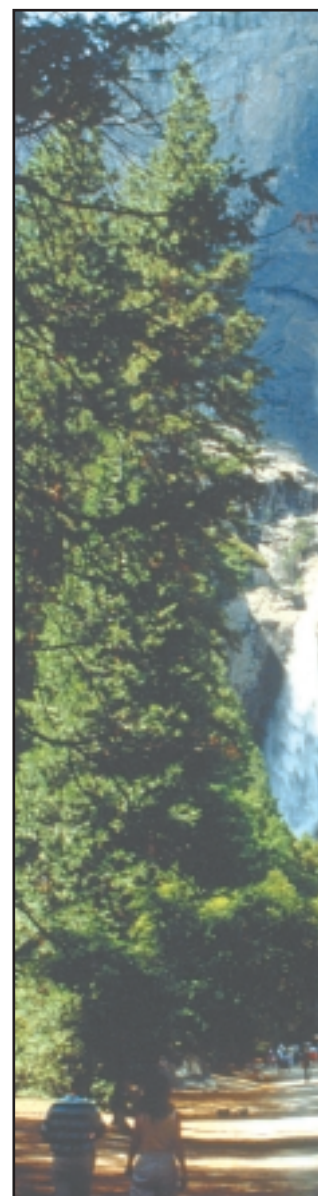


Photo by Mike Floyd



Photo by James Schull

MAKE YOUR COMMENTS COUNT!

The most useful types of comments are those that address the factual content and environmental analysis of the plan. Thoughtful, written comments on how to improve the alternatives are the best way to provide input. All comments should take into consideration the overall legal mandates and legislation that guide the National Park Service mission.